

Motor Vehicles for Hire  
Wednesday, March 26, 2014  
Town Hall, Old Town Road  
9:00 a.m.

Present: Brad Marthens, Vin McAloon, Connie LaRue, Patrick Evans, Geoffrey Lawrence.  
Also present were Chris O'Neill, Polly McMahon, Alexis McCabe. Bonny Ryan was present to take the minutes.

Brad Marthens called the meeting to order at 9:02

1. Public Input – none
2. Approve minutes: February 19, 2014 – minutes were approved as written in a motion by Connie LaRue and seconded by Patrick Evans  
Ayes 5(Marthens, McAloon, LaRue, Evans, Lawrence) Nay 0
3. Discuss and act on Rules and Regulations – survey results.  
The returned surveys were read and noted. Results are attached. After discussion the following memo will be sent to the Town Council:  
To: Town Council (*Revised version*)  
From: Motor Vehicles for Hire  
Date: March 26, 2014  
Re: Taxi Rules and Regs

As a result of the Town Council's request for public input, the Motor Vehicle for Hire Commission sent out a survey to all owners (32) asking three questions:

1. Should there be a surcharge of \$1.00 per any pets not in a carrier.
  2. Amend proposed regulation on dress code to say "Appropriate dress is suggested"
  3. Should the basic rate be increased from \$6.00 to \$9.00
- 14 Surveys were returned. Two meetings were held by the Motor Vehicle for Hire Commission at which there were owners and drivers in attendance to discuss these issues and other proposed regulations.

As a result of the meeting held on March 26, 2014 the Motor Vehicle for Hire Commission respectfully requests that the Council adopts the following regulations:

1. Adopt a regulation to read "Appropriate dress suggested (clean and neat in appearance) at owner's discretion. Motion by Brad Marthens, seconded by Connie LaRue. *This gives the owner control over his/her drivers.*
2. Advertising: Not allowed on exterior of motor vehicles for hire. For the purposes of this regulation, information identifying the motor vehicle for hire is not considered to be advertising, but identification. Motion by Brad Marthens seconded by Geoffrey Lawrence.

3. The Pets regulation should read: Chauffeurs may not bring personal pets to work, except for licensed service animals. *It was felt by owners and drivers that this would be a liability to the Town as well as potential risk to the consumer.* Fares' pets may be carried at the discretion of the chauffeur; except for licensed service animals must be carried.

4. Voted unanimously to retain the \$6.00 basic fare.

5. Voted unanimously to request that the Council add a \$1.00 surcharge for dogs not in carriers. Motion by Patrick Evans seconded by Geoffrey Lawrence.

*It was felt by the owners/drivers that in general dogs required additional cleaning thus removing itself from the road for a period of time to prepare the cab for the next fare (dander, hair, water, dirt and often sand).*

Also please be advised that at their next meeting the MVFH commission will be adding an item to its agenda for the purposes of revisiting the fuel surcharge allowance instituted in 2006 should the current fuel prices on Block Island exceed a predetermined amount and allow a \$1.00 charge to be instated if it should become necessary. (I.E. should the fuel prices exceed \$4.50 per gallon a \$1.00 fuel surcharge will take effect). The MVFH commission would like feedback on this from the Council.

Next meeting April 16, 2014

At 10:15 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Brad Marthens, seconded by Patrick Evans and voted unanimously.

Minutes approved: 4/16/2014

Bonny Ryan